- Special focus in the Marketing Conference of Overseas offices of the Ministry giving due publicity to North-East States.
- During 1998-99, 77 tourism projects have ben sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 1181.65 lakhs released.

Completion of irrigation schemes / projects

2124. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of irrigation schemes / project being executed with the Central assistance in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether these projects are being completed as per the time schedule; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the efforts being made by the Government for their timely completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The Centre has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) since 1996-97 for providing Central Loan Assistance (CLA) for completion of those irrigation projects which are in advance stage of completion or mega projects which are beyond the resource capability of the Slates. The Satate-wise details of major / medium irrigation schemes included under AIBP alongwith their latest estimated cost and ultimate irrigation is given in the Annexure [see Appendix 189 Annexure No. 61]

(b) and (c) The completion of these projects depends upon various factors such as their size, availability of land, clearances, geological conditions etc. Equally important is allocation of funds to the individual project by the State Government in respect of their share for utilising CLA under AIBP.

Long and short term plans for water management

2125. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of WATERRESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cultivable land productivity can only be increased through proper water management and large scale drainage works;

(b) if so, what long-term and short-term plans Government have formulated for implementation by State Governments;

(c) whether any monitoring agencies have been appointed or identified for keeping track of the progress; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes Sir, it is true that land productivity can be considerably incrased through proper water managemenl and location specific drainage works in the land affected by water logging;

(b) Government of India have formulated a number of schemes which are being implemented through the State Governments. Indian Council of Agricultural Research is conducting researches to develop technologies on efficient water management including drainage and suggesting the State Government for adoptation.

The schemes on Soil and Water Conservation in the catchments of river valley projects and soil and water conservation in the catchments of flood prone rivers are being implemented by the Ministry of Agricultural for porper management of land and water resources. Another scheme of Ministry of Agriculture is the National Watershed development project for Rain-fed Area which also envisages proper land and water management.

The Ministry of Water Resources has initialed manyu programmes/ measures which include: (i) A national Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development; (ii) Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme; (iii) Command Area Development Programme; (iv) Extension, renovation and Modernization of Projects etc. to harness and properly manage available water resources.

(c) and (d) the performance of different programmes is monitored through progress reports received from different State Government, periodical meetings and field visit. In addition, Government also periodically engage monitoring and evaluation agencies to ascertain progress of the programmes.